

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /048 W
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R 140907Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6114

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PLO UN LE XF

SUBJECT: BEIRUT UN COMMUNITY'S CONCERN WITH SECURITY

REF: BEIRUT 5609

1. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT TO COME OUT OF RECENT CONSULTATIONS BY HEADS OF UN AGENCIES AND OFFICES IN BEIRUT (REFTEL) WAS DECISION TO REQUEST UNSYG WALDHEIM TO ASSIGN FULL-TIME SECURITY OFFICER TO BEIRUT. WE BELIEVE THIS REQUEST WAS CONVEYED TO WALDHEIM BY UNRWA COMGEN RENNIE WHEN THEY MET MAY 6 IN GENEVA. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENT, RENNIE IS ASSIGNED OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY OF LOCAL UN COMMUNITY. SITUATION HERE NOW CONSIDERED SO SERIOUS THAT PART-TIME ATTENTION TO SECURITY FUNCTIONS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY HIGH-RANKING UN OFFICIAL HERE
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THAT, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, IT WAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO

SUBMIT JOINT FORMAL PROTEST TO GOL OVER MURDER OF UNRWA INTERNATIONAL STAFFER (REFTEL), SINCE THIS NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE GOL'S GENERAL HELPLESSNESS IN DEALING WITH SECURITY MATTERS. INSTEAD, INTERNATIONAL STAFF EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS UN AGENCIES LOCATED IN BEIRUT WERE ASKED TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING PERSONAL SECURITY, AND SOME OF THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED.

3. ON MORE GENERAL LEVEL, SAME UN SOURCE TOLD US THAT UNTSO HEADQUARTERS AT JERUSALEM HAS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AND EVACUATION OF UN EMPLOYEES. IN RECENT MONTHS, DESIGNATED UN OFFICIALS FROM EACH COUNTRY (RENNIE FOR LEBANON) HAVE MET TO DISTILL TWELVE TO FOURTEEN PRINCIPLES TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY E&E PLANS FOR UN PERSONNEL SHOULD CONFORM. NEXT STEP IS FOR EACH UN COUNTRY TEAM TO REVISE EXISTING E&E PLAN. THIS REVISION WOULD BE FIRST TASK ASSIGNED TO ANY UN-APPOINTED SECURITY OFFICER IN BEIRUT. GODLEY

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